

SUMMER 2010



The mission of the Vicariate is to be responsive to the ministry of its parishes, schools, institutions, and agencies by:



Coordinating pastoral planning



Enhancing communications and networking



Promoting collegiality



Identifying and utilizing all resources which can be shared

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Vicar's Voice

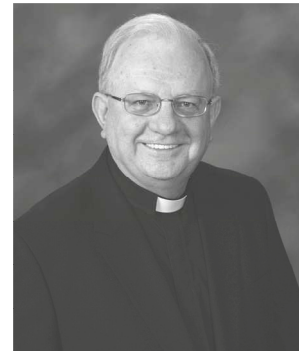
Dear Friends in the Pontiac Area Church,
 One of the more important projects that the Pontiac Area Vicariate has undertaken in the last four years is the Plan for the Pastoral Care of the Sick. The need for such a plan surfaced in our Vicariate's "Together in Faith" planning process and sought a way to best utilize priests, deacons and lay volunteers in caring for the sick and providing the sacrament of anointing. There are four hospitals in our Vicariate and numerous extended care facilities where parishioners or their family members request spiritual care during their illness.

Some of the goals of the Plan were to better educate parishioners and institutional staff about the Sacrament of the Sick and Viaticum, provide for lay volunteers to bring Holy Communion regularly to those who are ill, schedule regular communal anointing services in parishes around the Vicariate, and provide for a system to contact a priest in case of an emergency.

Since the current discipline of the Church designates only a priest

as the minister of the sacrament of anointing and there are 36% fewer priests in parishes today than there were ten years ago this is a difficult problem to resolve. The implementation of the plan has been stalled the last several months due to the departure from our Vicariate of Deacon Alex who was spearheading its execution. Kathy Hasty and Mary Martin, who were on the original Ad Hoc Committee for the plan, have stepped forward to get it jump-started. They are also working with the Archdiocese of Detroit to see how our plan can be copied in other Vicariates in order to bring Jesus' healing touch through His Church to the sick. Additional information about the plan and the sacrament of anointing is readily available on our Vicariate website www.pontiacarevicariate.org.

Enhanced Marriage Ministry is a project that I hope the parishes of the Vicariate will embrace in the next fiscal year. While all parishes do a fairly good job of preparing couples for marriage, there is still much that could be done for couples already married. Since mar-



riage is the vocation of the majority of our parish members it needs to be enriched and nurtured in all the phases of people's lives. Hopefully such support can be parish-based making it readily available and user-friendly.

Please support your parish's 2010 Catholic Service Appeal. This is one appeal that truly touches the lives of people in all of southeast Michigan. It is a very specific way to fulfill the mandate we receive at the close of each Mass: "to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another." Have a blessed summer!

Fr. Stan Ulman
 Vicar

Pastoral Care Plan Moves Forward

The Pontiac Area Vicariate continues to move forward in our effort to provide pastoral care services to the sick in our area. The Archdiocese of Detroit, PAV Parishes, and the Vicariate Pastoral Council have worked together over the past several years to identify needs and come up with new ways to serve those who are sick and in need of anointing. Kathy Hasty and Mary Martin, from St. Joseph Parish in Lake Orion, are spearheading a dialogue among PAV ministers about care of the hospitalized and other areas of continuing need. Formation needs for lay pastoral care volunteers is another important area being developed.

A key objective is to reduce the need for emergency calls from area hospitals to PAV priests. This is being addressed by developing a coordinated schedule of Communal

Anointing services within the Vicariate, so that there are regular opportunities provided for area Catholics to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Anointing. Connections between parish ministers and hospital chaplains will be strengthened as well. Ministers from our PAV parishes, with the help of Joyce Hyttinen from the Archdiocesan Office of Parish Life, will explore some of these areas together in the coming weeks.

What is very encouraging to date is the wonderful outreach to the sick that is occurring within the PAV. Parish data show that there are significant numbers of parishioners engaged in Communion Ministries to the Sick in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers, and private homes. Other ministry volunteers sit with dying patients, act as Stephens ministers, assist at

Communal Anointing services, and sometimes even pray with patients and families in hospital emergency rooms and surgical waiting rooms. Clearly, laypeople are taking up their baptismal call to continue the ministry of Jesus to the sick in a multitude of settings, bringing gifts of Holy Communion, and prayer, and compassionate presence. And they will all tell you that sharing in this ministry blesses them, deepens their own spirituality, and makes them even more aware of God's love and presence and grace. These generous men and women are a great blessing to us, as they partner with us in ministering to the sick in our midst.

Stay tuned for further developments as the Pastoral Care of the Sick Initiative continues to move forward. *

Members:

Parishes

- Christ the Redeemer, Orion Township
- St. Damien of Molokai, Pontiac
- Sacred Heart of the Hills, Auburn Hills
- St. Andrew, Rochester
- St. Benedict, Waterford
- St. Irenaeus, Rochester Hills
- St. John Fisher, Auburn Hills
- St. Joseph, Lake Orion
- St. Mary of the Hills, Rochester Hills
- St. Paul Albanian, Rochester Hills

Schools

- Holy Family Elementary, Rochester/Rochester Hills
- Marist Academy Lower Level St. Benedict Campus, Waterford
- St. Joseph School, Lake Orion
- Marist Academy Middle School, Pontiac
- Notre Dame Preparatory, Pontiac

Catholic Cemeteries

- Guardian Angels
- Mt. Hope

Understanding the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Providing education on the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a key component of the PAV effort to improve Pastoral Care services. Below are some frequently asked questions and answers about Anointing.

Why is the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick so important to Catholics?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that the special grace of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has these effects:

- the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his or her own good and that of the whole Church;
- the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age;
- the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance;
- the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his or her soul;
- the preparation for passing over to eternal life.

What changes have been made in this sacrament since I was a child?

When many of us were growing up, this sacrament was called “Extreme Unction,” which actually means, “final anointing.” Since Vatican II, the sacrament has been called the “Sacrament of the Sick” or the “Anointing of the Sick.” The biggest difference is that Extreme Unction was offered only when one was dying, while the Sacrament of the Sick is now offered to anyone who is seriously ill, facing serious surgery, or simply in a state of advanc-

ing old age. No longer should the faithful be concerned that the mere suggestion of this sacrament means that they are dying!

Is the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick a “once only” sacrament?

No. It can be received many times. If persons who have received the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick recover, they can receive the sacrament if they fall ill again. Also, should their illness worsen, they may receive the sacrament again.

What actually happens in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?

First, the priest will offer you the sacrament of Reconciliation. Then, he will anoint your forehead and hands while asking God in prayer to bestow upon you the special grace of this sacrament. Finally, he will offer you the Eucharist, if your condition allows you to receive it.

Do I have to be in the hospital to receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?

No. As with all sacraments, the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in the family home, a hospital, or a church, and whether for a single sick person or a group of sick persons. With the shortage of priests that the Church is now experiencing, it is important that you not wait until the last minute to receive the Sacrament of the Sick if at all possible. If you have surgery scheduled, or have just been diagnosed with a serious illness, tell your pastor that you would like to receive the sacrament. Since the sacrament is now often given long before persons are on their deathbeds, it can take place within

the regular celebration of the Mass, even before one enters the hospital. More and more parishes now offer communal Masses for the Sick, in which this sacrament is preceded (as it always should be) by the private sacrament of Penance, and followed by the sacrament of the Eucharist.

If I have received the Sacrament of the Sick, don't I still need a priest at my bedside when I am actually dying?

While it is understandable that the presence of a priest as one actually dies can be very comforting, there should be no dismay if a priest is not at one's bedside. First, God loves you and knows if it is impossible for a priest to be with you. Second, the “Last Sacrament” of the Roman Catholic Church is not the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Rather, it is the last Eucharist, or “Viaticum,” which literally means “with you on the journey.” While a priest is needed to consecrate the Eucharist, and to give the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, a priest is not needed to bring you Viaticum. Any baptized Catholic may bring Eucharistic to you from the tabernacle.

Communion in the body and blood of Christ, received at this moment of “passing over” to the Father, has a particular significance and importance. It is the seed of eternal life and the power of resurrection, according to the words of the Lord: “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” The sacrament of Christ once dead and now risen, the Eucharist is, for the dying, the sacrament of passing over from death to life, from this world to the Father. ✦

More information is available online. Visit www.pontiacarevicariate.org and click on “Anointing of the Sick” to find:

- A video by Msgr. John Zenz explaining the Sacrament
- Pastoral Letter on Ministry to the Sick
- How to obtain the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
- Pastoral Care Brochure
- Patient Information Card
- Currently Scheduled Communal Anointing services

Anointing will be available at the end of the 5:30 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM Sunday Masses on June 26/27, July 24/25, and Aug 28/29 at

St. John Fisher Chapel,
3665 E. Walton Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48363
248-373-6457

PAV Service Operations Update

Presented below is an update on the activities and the accomplishments of the PAV Ministries, prepared by the PAV Service Operations Committee, whose mission is to provide stewardship oversight of the Vicariate's operational services. The following items represent some of God's work that the PAV Ministries are accomplishing.

Dale Youngpeter, PAV Service Operations Committee Chair

Catholic Community Response Team Receives Grant

CCRT was again blessed with a grant from the Archdiocese of Detroit's Parish Empowerment Fund. The \$24,000 grant, along with parish subsidies, covers the overhead expenses of this vital PAV ministry.

CCRT sincerely thanks all parishes and individuals for their continued support for the most vulnerable in our Vicariate. Barbara Williams, CCRT Director, would welcome the opportunity to speak to parish councils, commissions or community groups. Contact her at 248-334-3595 ext. 3332 or CCRT@cssoc.org.

Genesis Ministries

Genesis Ministries provides opportunities for young adults ages 18-35 (single or married) to explore,

deepen, and live their faith in Christ. This is done through retreats, worship, Theology on Tap, and social/sporting events at both parish and campus levels. Genesis serves 65 parishes throughout the Pontiac, Oakland, Lakes and Thumb Vicariates.

The Pontiac Area Vicariate is very active in Genesis through their young adult ministry, Fusion. Fusion has a monthly Young Adult Mass every second Sunday of the month at St. John Fisher. Fusion also has weekly events available. For a calendar of events visit www.oucampusministry.com.

If you would like to learn more about Genesis Ministries and the ways you can connect, please check www.genesis-ministries.org or our Facebook group, or contact Genesis Director, Charlie DeBoever at genesis-min@ameritech.net.

Youth Ministry

Throughout the PAV, youth programs are winding down for the year. It has been a full year, with many spiritual, service and social events taking place within the Vicariate. There were dances, retreats, CYO Rainbow, weekly meetings, service projects and many other activities. For the summer, most youth ministry programs slow down, but some parishes have scheduled social and service events. For example, a PAV group is going to Cedar Point in June. Several youth groups have camping/canoeing planned for later in the summer. Four of our parishes will also offer community service retreat experiences, which allow our teens to engage in meaningful local mission work. ✱

PAV Service Operations By The Numbers...

A Call to Serve (ACTS)

Period: 9/01/06 to 04/17/10

No. of lay ministers trained:	202
No. of Training Sessions	8
Number of Sessions per year:	2
Candidates per session:	30

Vision 2000 Campaign for

Catholic Schools

Period: 07/01/09 to 4/30/10

Actual Income 2009-10	\$ 50,311
Actual Expenses 2009-10	\$ 3,544
Actual Cash flow 2009-10	\$ 46,767

Genesis Ministries

Period: 4/1/09 to 3/31/10

Diocesan Events per year	2
Retreats per year	4
Standard events a month	20-30
Young Adult Masses a year	11
PAV Parishes involved	7
Active Young Adult Groups	7
Young Adults Served	350

Youth Ministry

Period: 4/1/09 to 3/31/10

Events per year	6
Staff participation	6
Youth Minister Meetings	12
Parishes served	7

Catholic Community Response Team

Period: 01/01/09 to 03/31/10

	REQUESTS	FULLY MET
Food orders	797	709
Clothing	495	456
Grooming packs	378	347
Household Goods	131	131
Identification	73	61
Rent assist	149	78
Utility Support	91	62
Medical Needs	11	9
Eyeglasses	12	12
Job Info	50	48
Referral	179	162
Transportation	15	10
Safe-Link Phones	23	21
Total	2414	2106

25th Annual Golf Classic to Benefit Guest House

Oakhurst Golf and Country Club in Clarkston will host the 25th Annual Guest House Golf Classic on June 14. The event will include a 4-person scramble, celebrity golfers, contests, prizes, lunch, and dinner with awards reception. Register at www.guesthouse.org or by calling 248.391.4445. Proceeds from the Guest House Golf Classic will help Guest House in its mission to provide compassionate treatment and care for addicted clergy and religious.



Reunions:

- ✦ West - Grands CYO, July 10, For details call Rose (248.437.6621) or Sharon (734.522.7924)
- ✦ St. Ignatius Grade School, Detroit, All Class Reunion, August 22 at Stony Creek Metro Park. <http://stignatiuscommittee.web.officelive.com> or call Dan Scenga at 586.850.2976
- ✦ St. Ladislaus Parish 90th Anniversary, September 26. Mass at noon with dinner following. Email mjbacinski@aol.com for more information.

Events:

- ✦ Fr. Lawrence Ventline conducts a class in Acceptance. First Sat of each month, 5:30 PM at St. Joseph Shrine, 400 South Blvd, Pontiac. Call 586.754.1524 for details.

Members:

Religious Communities

- Oxford Dominican Sisters
- St. Benedict Monastery

Chaplaincies

- Crittenton Hospital
- Oakland County Jail
- Oakland County Juveniles
- POH Medical Center
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

Nursing Homes

- Lake Orion
- Sanctuary at Bellbrook
- Oakland County Medical Care Facility
- Lourdes Campus

Oakland County

- Catholic Community Response Team
- Catholic Social Services
- Genesis Young Adult/Campus Ministry
- Fusion Ministry
- Guest House
- St. Mary's Retreat House

PAV Website:

www.pontiacareavariate.org

Email:

admin@pontiacareavariate.org